

DECEMBER

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

DECEMBER MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, December 15, 8:15 p.m.
PLACE: Morrison Auditorium
SPEAKERS: Mr. J. Clyde Gorman and
Dr. G Dallas Hanna
SUBJECT: "THE GREAT ALASKAN EARTH-
QUAKE"

On Good Friday, March 27, 1964, the greatest seismic upheaval in recorded history (based upon energy expended) occurred in Alaska. Some 65,000 square miles were affected by temblors with a Richter reading of almost 8.4. The resultant land level changes of various localities ranged from a seven foot depressed area to an uplift of 33 feet. Fortunately, the disaster did not cause the great number of fatalities which could normally be expected from such an horrendous event.

Through the good offices of the U.S. Army Engineers and the kind cooperation of Mr. Gorman, Chief, Technical Liaison Office of the Sacramento District, a most unusual film "Response to Disaster" will be screened at the meeting. It is a documentation of the immense physical damage caused, the awesome clean-up task performed, and early reconstruction. The motion picture coverage was requested by the Office of Emergency Planning at White House level and assigned to the Engineers for production. Mr. Gorman will present personal observations about the film which he wrote, field directed and roughly edited.

As the membership is aware, the Academy was also directly involved in a study of the great Alaska cataclysm. Dr. G Dallas Hanna, Curator of Geology, will be on hand to present aspects and color slides of the work in the field by a scientific team (of which he was head) and performed at the behest of the National Academy of Sciences through a Presidential directive. The team's particular interest was the effect of the earthquake on the biology of the region.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"THE MYSTERY OF STONEHENGE" will continue in the Theatre of the Stars through December 5.*

"THE CHRISTMAS STAR" begins on December 8 and will play through January 2. For the 13th year, the Planetarium offers its seasonal delight. What, according to astronomers, was that magical sign in the sky that completely altered the course of history?

Performances daily at 3:30 p.m. with evening shows Wednesday through Sunday at 8:30. Extra matinees at 2:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. The Planetarium is closed on Monday and Tuesday evenings and will be closed on Christmas Eve, December 24.

**As the NEWSLETTER goes to the printers, "Stonehenge" is being a sell-out sky show. If the attendance warrants, it may be held over. Members in the Bay Area should call the Academy, SKyline 2-8268, to determine which show is playing.*

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Exhibit of the Month: "IVORY-BILLED WOOD-PECKER" from the Academy collections. Main Foyer, Science Museum.

"THE TARAHUMARA INDIANS," photographs in black and white by Mr. Sam Coombs, continues in Lovell White Hall through the end of the year.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION" (Schedule for viewers in the San Francisco Bay Area: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat telecast on Sundays at 6:00 p.m., KQED Channel 9. For other areas, consult the listings in your local paper.)

Dec. 1-5: "THE SURGEON'S CENTURY," with Guest Scientist John Bertrand De C. M. Saunders, M.D., Chancellor, UC Medical Center.

Dec. 8-12: "THE PROBABLE CAUSE" with Bahidji B. Sabouni, Sabouni and Associates.

Dec. 15-19: "OBSERVATORY," with Dr. Albert E. Whitford, Lick Observatory.

Dec. 22-26: "PLANETARIUM," with Thomas M. Gates, Morrison Planetarium, CAS.

Dec. 29-
Jan. 2: "SCHIZOPHRENIA" with Don D. Jackson, M.D., Palo Alto Mental Research Institute.

NEWS and NOTES

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY of the S. H. Cowell Foundation and a grant of \$1,250,000 by its Trustees, a splendid new building is to be added to the Academy complex. To be known as "Cowell Hall," the new structure will connect Simson African Hall and

North American Hall — in effect — enclosing the fourth side of the quadrangle that faces onto the Music Concourse and the M. H. deYoung Museum.

Anticipated since 1916 and part of a long-range plan, the two-storied facade building will be the main entrance to the Academy and will be approximately 60 by 170 feet which, when incorporated with the existing structures, will present an impressive 500-plus foot front on Concourse Drive in Golden Gate Park.

The entrance—a single, capacious, glassed wall—will contain large exhibits now in the planning, an information center, bookstore, and a memorial exhibit which will include a history and functions of the CAS. From the spacious loggia will be stairwells and elevators to the basement (reserved for a restaurant and peripheral exhibits) and to the second floor which will house administrative offices.

Construction is expected to begin within a year.

AT THE 1965 Annual Fellows Dinner held in Simson African Hall on November 10, Dr. Laurence M. Klauber, one of America's leading herpetologists, was awarded the Fellows Medal, the second such presentation in Academy history. Dr. Klauber has for many years been closely associated with the San Diego Zoological Society and the San Diego Society of Natural History. He is the author of an extraordinary two-volume work on rattlesnakes. Dr. A. Starker Leopold, President of the Academy, made the award.

On the same occasion, Dr. Ian Campbell, a member of the Board of Trustees, presented Mr. Melvin B. Lane of the Lane Publishing Company an award from the American Association for Conservation Information in recognition of the extensive publishing the company has done in the field of conservation. Mr. Lane is the publisher of the very popular "Sunset" Magazine and series of books.

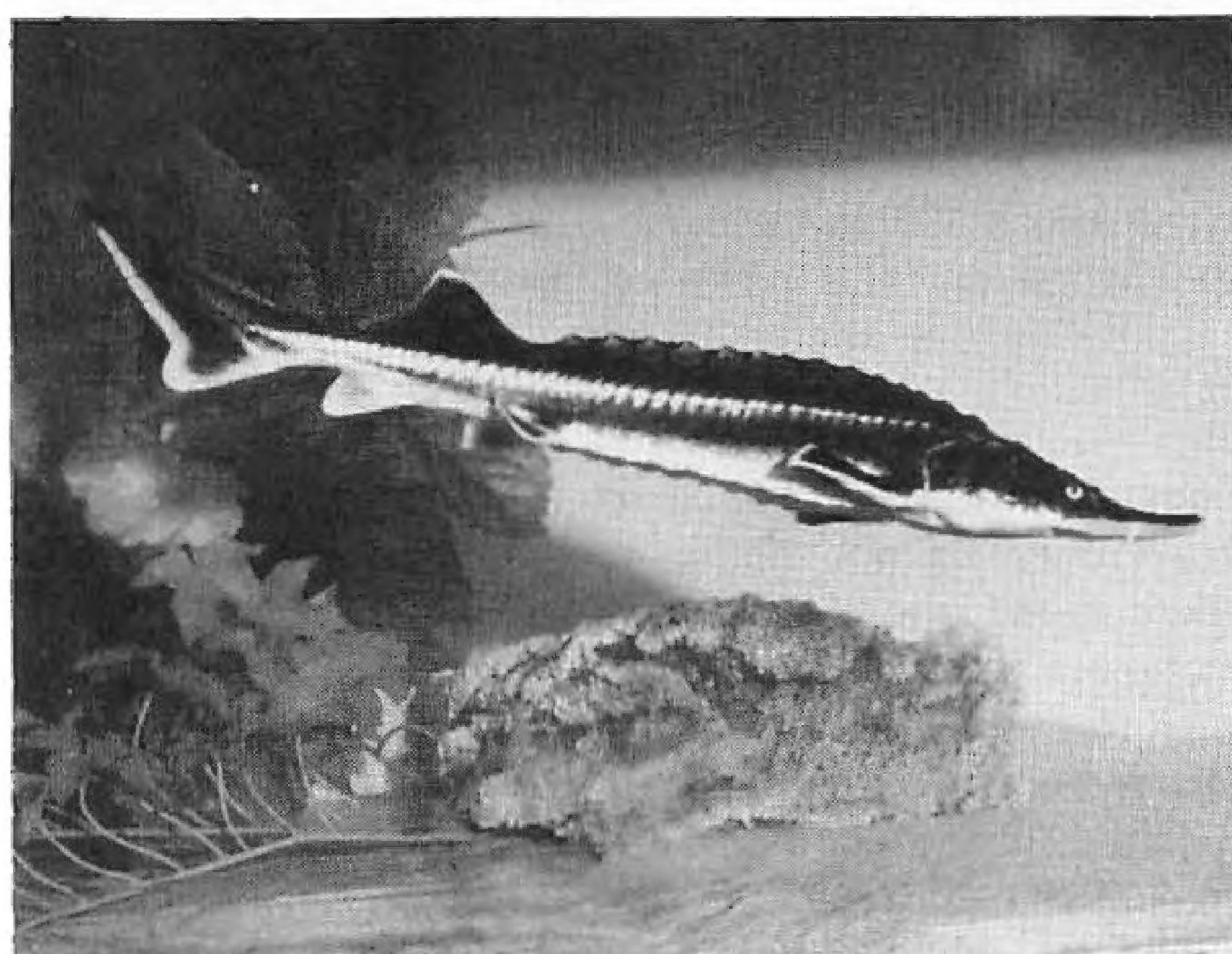
DR. EARL S. HERALD, Superintendent of Steinhart Aquarium, returned in November from a month-long expedition to various spots along the Amazon River including the headwaters in British Guiana, South America. In company with scientists from the new Niagara Falls Aquarium, Dr. Herald was interested not only in additional rare specimens for Steinhart (and the area is truly a "paradise" for fish collectors) but also to study the habits of the piranhas, including the elusive black species.

Sentimentally, everyone is still hoping that a mate for "Whiskers," Steinhart's little fresh-water dolphin, will soon be forthcoming as a result of Dr. Herald's trip. Everybody but "Whiskers" has his fingers crossed.

It is hard to think of a nicer gift for your friends than a membership in the Academy. Remember, for as little as \$10 they can enjoy our monthly meetings, PACIFIC DISCOVERY, the topicality of the NEWSLETTER, planetarium tickets, use of the Mailliard Library, and that pleasant 10% Member's Discount at the sales desks. But mainly their membership will strengthen the Academy which is the best benefit of all.

Also, keep in mind the discount to members when doing your Christmas shopping. There are hundreds of items and books to choose from and we solicit your patronage. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

IN THE WHO'S WHO of our finny population, *Huso huso* is credited with being the largest fresh-water fish known to science. Steinhart Aquarium, through the efforts of Academy member, Jeff Meyer, has two of these animals which are more commonly known as sturgeon and, believe it or not, they are indirectly a gift from the once-premier of Soviet Russia, Nikita Khrushchev.



The sturgeon are now approximately 1' long

Before his change of status, Mr. K paid a courtesy call to the Bergen Norway Aquarium and Fisheries Institute and he brought as a present a number of week-old sturgeon. This was in July 1964. Generously, Director Gunnar Rollefson has shared the growing fish with Steinhart and two of them, Nikki and Nina, are swimming around happily in Tank #28. Oddly enough, they share the tank with California's state fish—Golden Trout—which is a kind of nice ideological switch.

Sturgeon can reach a weight of 2,860 pounds and grow to be 28 feet long—if they reach the age of 75. With the excellent care they get, Steinhart's pair is expected to do just that.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

Regular Membership

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dr. Edgar H. Bailey | Mr. A. H. Isenberg |
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| Mrs. Dave L. Hofer | Mr. Pat W. Snow |
| Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Titus | |

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| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| Mrs. Ruth L. Browne | Mr. James McKibben |
| Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Earle | Mr. & Mrs. William D. Outman |
| Mr. Paul M. Gilbert | Mr. & Mrs. Andre Pancheco |
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| Mr. Bruce C. Johnson | Mr. & Mrs. Ray Pilling |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kaplan | Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Sirk |
| Mr. Howard A. Lathe | Mrs. Marjorie C. Talbott |
| Mr. Paul J. Marchese | Mr. & Mrs. Roy Trumbull |

Contributing Member

Mr. Seymour Horowitz

Subscribing Member

Hayman Foundation

Student Membership

Rich Adams
Ross Boomer
Patty Crane
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Karl Mosely
Percy Mussells
Kip Potter

Brian Reed
George Richards
Paul Rogers
David Sellers
Michael Skinner
Collene Vail
Thomas Yasumura
Mike Yuschenskoff

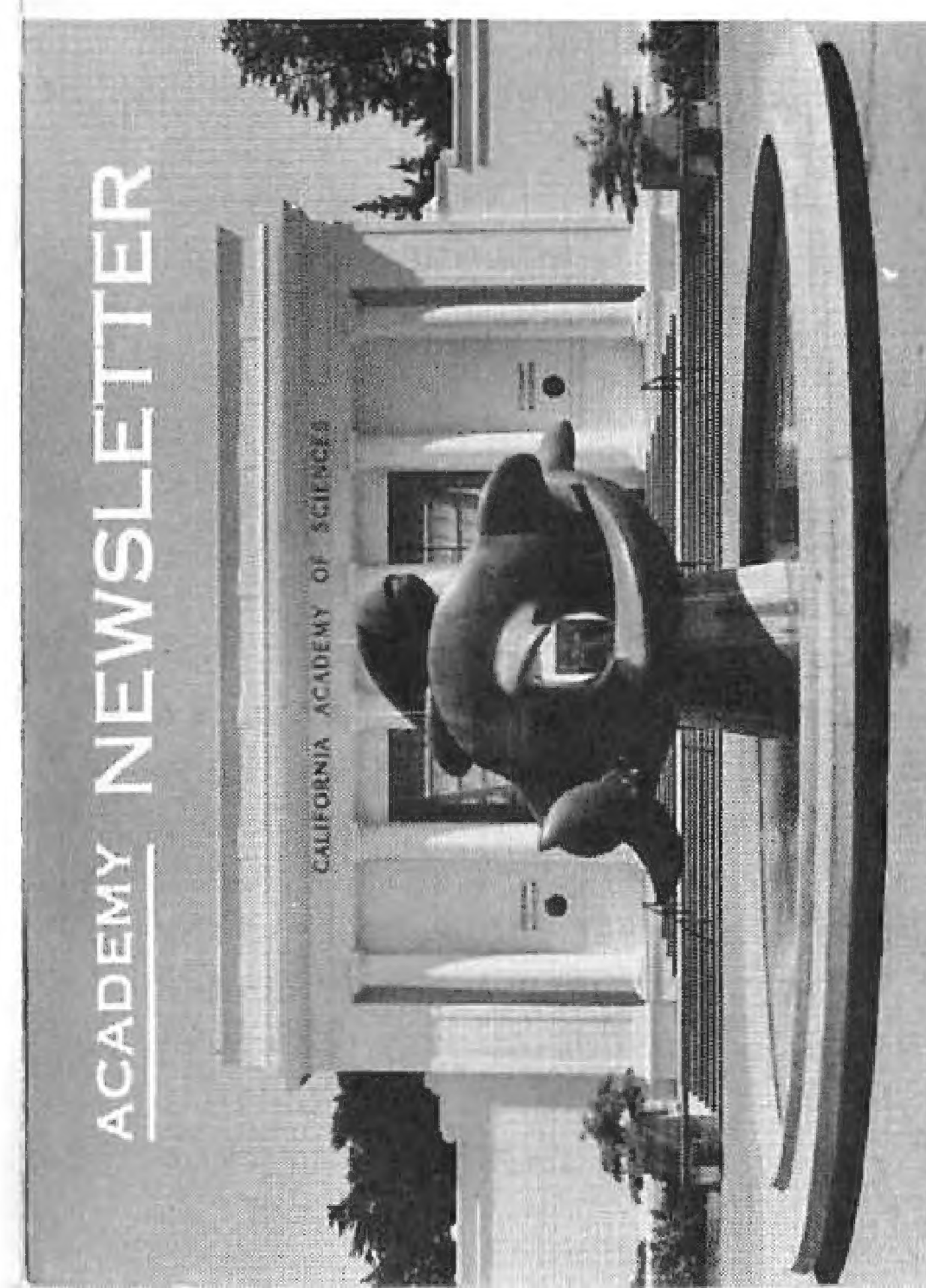
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